Ross, David

April 1914

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1342½ Shattuck Ave.,
Berkeley, Calif.,
April 2nd, 1914.

President Falconer,
Toronto University, Toronto.

Dear Sir :-

My reasons for writing you are:

1. Rev. Dr. Wilkie, of Thornci, Sask., told me while on a flying visit to my home in Strassburg, Sask., of your attitude re Hindu immigration.

2. I was appealed to some months ago by Dr. Sunder Singh, of Victoria, B.C. to do something to prevent the injustice of a Dominion Hindu Exclusion Act, to be passed this session.

3. The solution seems so simple, - by a "gentlemen's agreement" as with Japan, restricting Hindu immigration to 500 per year. Dr. Sunder Singh, on my suggesting it, has replied that he believes it would

solve the question.

4. I have recently met here Har Dayal, A. M., a gifted Hindu, who was an Imperial State Scholar at Oxford, and was Lecturer on Hindu Philosophy in Stanford. He is now editor of a Hindu paper published in San Francisco, called "Rebellion," which openly advocates armed revolt in India against the British power. One of the powerful arguments used in the propaganda to destroy the loyalty of the Sikhs is Canada's unjust discrimination against Hindus. I feel that I am watching the burning of a short fuse here, which may cause an explosion that will shake the world, and that Canada can stop the explosion by passing a restricted immigration act affecting the Hindus instead of an Exclusion Act.

I have written Mrs. J. K. Macdonald also in this matter to-day, mentioning that I am writing you, and expressing the hope that your combined influence and wisdom may be brought to bear on the press and parliament to prevent

the passage of an unjust Exclusion Act, and to ensure the passage of a fair measure regarding the Hindus.

I have written to Premier Borden.

Yours sincerely,
David Ross.

April 8th, 1914

Rev. D. Ross,

Berkeley, California.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter with regard to the immigration of the Hindus into Canada. What I was particularly interested in was the securing of permission for the entry of the wives of the Hindus who are already here. Hitherto it has been impossible to bring enough pressure to bear on the Government to have the law modified. Apparently British Columbia has more influence in this matter than the East.

With regard to the general question of Hindu immigration into Canada I am not prepared to give an opinion. I should have to study local conditions more thoroughly before I could form an independent judgment as to the best policy with regard to the admission of Hindus. The admission of the wives of those who are already here is quite another question. I will be glad to talk the matter over again with Mr. J. M. Macdonald.

Yours sincerely,

President.

CORONA MILLS